

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: : PATENT
PAUL M. McELFRESH, et al. :
Serial No.: 09/400,812 : Group Art Unit: 1721
Filed: September 22, 1999 : Examiner: P. Tucker
For: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING USING : Docket No.: 304-15027-US
NON-IONIC SURFACTANT : Date: February 17, 2000
GELLING AGENT :

#4/a
3/2/00
PC

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated January 21, 2000, setting a shortened statutory period for response of three months in the above-cited case, please enter the following amendment.

In the Claims

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

- A' SUB B' /
1. (Amended) A method for treating a subterranean formation comprising:
providing an aqueous viscoelastic treating fluid having:
an aqueous base fluid; and
a non-ionic amine oxide surfactant gelling agent as the only
gelling agent employed;
injecting the aqueous viscoelastic surfactant treating fluid through a
wellbore and into the subterranean formation; and

A¹
contd

treating the subterranean formation under conditions effective to do

so.--

Please cancel claims 2 and 3 as redundant.

Please amend claim 8, line 12, by deleting the phrase "easily removed".

Please amend claims 9 as follows:

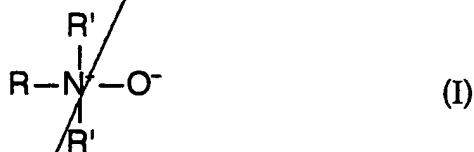
- A² B
9. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising
breaking the gel of the aqueous viscoelastic treating fluid by a
mechanism selected from the group consisting of contact with a
hydrocarbon, contact with alkoxyated alcohol solvents,
[dilution,] and contact with at least one ^{agent} [reactive agent] reactive
with the gel.--

- SUB
B2
10. (Amended) An aqueous viscoelastic treating fluid comprising:
an aqueous base fluid; and
a non-ionic amine oxide surfactant gelling agent in the absence of
another gelling agent.4

Please cancel claims 11 and 12 as redundant.

Finally, please amend claim 17 as follows:

- A³
17. (Amended) An aqueous viscoelastic treating fluid comprising:
an aqueous base fluid; and
a non-ionic amine oxide surfactant gelling agent having the formula:



where R is an alkyl or alkylamido group averaging from about 8
to 24 carbon atoms and R' are independently alkyl groups
averaging from about 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and

[2]